Based on the provisional import data available with the Government, the total import of these 300 sensitive items for the period April—June, 2001 has been Rs. 2173 crores against Rs. 2497 crores for the corresponding period of last year, thereby showing a negative growth rate of 13%. No specific reason may be attributable to this short term phenomenon. However, the overall picture that emerges from these quick estimates is one of normal trading activity in response to demand and supply factors.

India's Share in Global Spices and Plantation Market

2465. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has lost its dominant position in the global trade in several spices and plantation products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of factors responsible for this situation; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to enhance India's position in the global trade in these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) India's share (approx.) of exports of spices and other plantation products in the global market is as follows:—

S. No.	Item	India's share in the global market (in per cent) in Qty. terms
1.	Spices	46.00
2.	Tea	15.78
3.	Coffee	4.00
4.	Rubber	Negligible

While Indian exports of coffee and rubber have continuously increased during the last three years, there is a slight decline in the Indian exports of spices, as is evident from the data given below:—

Exports

(Quantity in lakh tonnes)

S.No.	Item	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01(P)
1.	Spices	2.41	2.36	2.30
2.	Tea	2.06	1.92	2.04
3.	Coffee	2.12	2.45	2.46
4.	Rubber	0.02	0.06	0.13

(P): Provisional

Source: Spices Board/Tea Board/Coffee Board/Rubber Board.

(c) The factors responsible for losing the dominant position in global tea trade include increase in the domestic consumption of tea, stiff competition from other tea producing and exporting countries, disintegration of erstwhile USSR, higher cost of production of tea in India, higher import duty imposed by some of the tea importing countries etc.

The major decline in export of spices is due to decline in export of pepper which accounts for major share of the total export earnings from spices. Fall in export of pepper is on account of cheaper prices offered by the competing countries like Vietnam and increasing supply position. Other reasons for decline in export of spices are non- availability of adequate exportable surplus is case of cumin, fenugreek, ginger and other seed spices; poor international demand in the case of celery and fennel and cheaper prices offered by the competing countries in case of ginger, coriander, chillies and fenugreek.

(d) Steps taken to increase export of tea from India on a global basis include an action plan for export of tea to Russia; increasing production of tea of exportable quality; registration of Tea Board Logo and Speciality Tea Logo in major importing countries; participation in major trade fairs/exhibitions abroad; removal of bottlenecks in exports to individual markets; media campaign to increase consumer awareness of speciality Indian teas and to popularise the Tea Board marketing symbol; exchange of tea delegations etc.

Steps taken by the Government/Spices Board to enhance India's position in the global trade include promoting organic pepper in selected countries; supporting natural sterlization units and upgrading processing technology; promoting export of herbal spices, mint oil and its derivatives; introducing

integrated pest management and integrated disease management in chilli; conducting regular training programme in the major producing centres on better post harvest practices, quality requirement and packaging; supporting exporters for promoting individual brands and international brands; assisting exporters for undertaking research and development on innovative new uses and application of spices; participation in international food fairs and seminars/ meetings for promoting Indian spices and spice products.

Committee on anti-dumping investigation procedures

2466. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a Committee to address the legal and procedural issues relating to anti-dumping investigations;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its composition and terms of reference;

(c) by when, the Committee is expected to submit its report; and

(d) the fate of the petitions filed in the meantime regarding alleged dumping of foreign foods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) A Committee has been set up to look into the adequacy of laws and procedures governing Anti-Dumping investigation. The Committee is headed by the Designated Authority. The fifteen-member Committee includes Government Counsels and officials of various Government Department. The Committee may also co-opt any other Member. The terms of reference of the Committee are: Adequacies in the laws and rules governing Anti-Dumping procedures in the country; consistencies in the statutes/rules *vis-a-vis* the Anti-Dumping practices and rulings of the Central Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal/ Dispute Settlement Bodies; availability of legal recourse relating to findings not recommending any duties and any other issue relevant to the terms of reference.

(d) The setting up of the Committee does not prohibit the domestic industry from filing petition and Designated Authority from initiating investigation. The petitions filed are dealt with according to the existing rules and procedures.